

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) In the manufacture of a web-shaped packaging laminate (22), comprising a core layer (24) of paper or paperboard, a method comprising the steps of coating (38) a first side of a material web (40) of paper or paperboard with an outer layer (26) of thermoplastic material, and thereafter, with the aid of laser burning (46, 48) forming, on the thus thermoplastic coated first side of the packaging laminate (22), a perforation line (32) through said thermoplastic layer (26) and said core layer (24), ~~characterised by~~ comprising the step, after said coating (38) with the thermoplastic material, but before the formation of the perforation, of compressing (44, 46) the packaging laminate (22) on said first side, for the formation of a compression line (30) in which said core layer (24) is compressed, whereafter said perforation line (32) is formed in said compression line (30).

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the compression line (30) and the perforation line (32) are formed in relation to one another such that a build-up of thermoplastic residual material (34) around the perforation line (32), after the laser burning (48, 46), will substantially be located entirely below the level of the surrounding surface of the packaging laminate (22), the core layer (24) preferably being compressed by at

most 70%, preferably at most 60% but at least 20%, preferably at least 30% of its original thickness in said compression line (30).

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the compression (30) is considerably wider than the perforation line (32), preferably at least 1.5 times, as wide, and even more preferably at least twice as wide, but at most ten times as wide, preferably at most five times as wide.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any of the preceding Claims, characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein said web-shaped packaging laminate (22) is further processed after the forming of the perforation line (32), on rollers (52) and/or by rolling up on a reel (54).

5. (Currently Amended) A plant in the manufacture of a web-shaped packaging laminate (22) comprising a core layer (24) of paper or paperboard, the plant comprising a coating station (38) for forming a coating layer (26) of a thermoplastic material on a first side of said core layer, followed by a perforation station (46) including a laser burner (48), the perforation station being disposed to form a laser-burned perforation line (32) on the first side of the packaging laminate (22) through said thermoplastic layer (26) and said core layer (24), ~~characterised by comprising~~ comprising a compression station (44) between said coating station (38) and said perforation station (46), including a compression tool (40) disposed to form a compression line (30) on said first side of the packaging laminate (22), and that said

perforation station (46) is disposed to form said perforation line (32) in said compression line (30).

6. (Currently Amended) The plant as claimed in Claim 5 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said compression tool (10) includes a roller (12) which displays a projecting compression portion (46) around its circumference, said projecting compression portion being preferably 1-3 mm and even more preferably 1.5-2.5 mm wide and preferably 0.2-2 mm and even more preferably 0.2-1 mm high above the surrounding surface (14) of the roller, as well as a counter roller (18) which preferably displays a smooth circumferential surface, a gap (20) between said roller (12) and said counter roller (18) being adjustable.

7. (Currently Amended) The plant as claimed in Claim 5 ~~or 6 characterised in that~~ wherein it includes additional, subsequent stations for further processing or handling of the packaging laminate, including rollers (52) and/or stations for rolling up the packaging laminate on a reel (54).

8. (Currently Amended) A packaging laminate comprising a core layer (24) of paper or paperboard as well as a thermoplastic coating layer (26) on a first side thereof, displaying a laser-burned perforation line (32) through the core layer (24) and the thermoplastic layer (26), ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said perforation line (32) is disposed in a compression line (30) on the first side of the packaging laminate (22), in which compression line said core layer is compressed.

9. (Currently Amended) The packaging laminate as claimed in Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the compression line (30) and the perforation line (32) are formed in relation to one another so that a build-up of thermoplastic residual material (34) around the perforation line is substantially located entirely below the level of the surrounding surface of the packaging laminate (22), the core layer (24) preferably being compressed in said compression line by at most 70%, preferably at most 60% but at least 20%, preferably at least 30% in relation to its thickness surrounding the compression line (30).

10. (Currently Amended) The packaging laminate as claimed in Claim 8 or 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the compression line (30) is considerably wider than the perforation line (32), preferably at least 1.5 times as wide, and even more preferably at least twice as wide, but at most ten times as wide, preferably at most five times as wide.

11. (Currently Amended) The packaging laminate as claimed in ~~any of Claims 8 to 10,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ Claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic coating layer (26) displays a surface weight or grammage of 20-50 g/m², preferably 20-40 g/m², and that it preferably includes a thermoplastic material selected from the group essentially comprising polyethylene and polypropylene.